

# Grade 7 Sample Test Prompt

## Voice

Going to the movies is a major source of entertainment for many students. Imagine that the only discount theater in your area is closing.

Write a persuasive essay in support of keeping the discount movie theater open .

Your writing should:

- Include a thesis statement.
- Have a developed point of view.
- Have an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization .

# AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

## VOICE

<p><b>6</b></p> <p>The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose and audience. The writer seems deeply committed to the topic, and there is an exceptional sense of “writing to be read.” The writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an effective level of closeness to or distance from the audience (e.g., a narrative should have a strong personal voice, while an expository piece may require extensive use of outside resources and a more academic voice; nevertheless, both should be engaging, lively, or interesting. Technical writing may require greater distance.).</li> <li>• an exceptionally strong sense of audience; the writer seems to be aware of the reader and of how to communicate the message most effectively. The reader may discern the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction.</li> <li>• a sense that the topic has come to life; when appropriate, the writing may show originality, liveliness, honesty, conviction, excitement, humor, or suspense.</li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose, and audience. The writer seems committed to the topic, and there is a sense of “writing to be read.” The writing is expressive, engaging or sincere. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an appropriate level of closeness to or distance from the audience (e.g., a narrative should have a strong personal voice while an expository piece may require extensive use of outside resources and a more academic voice; nevertheless, both should be engaging, lively or interesting. Technical writing may require greater distance.).</li> <li>• a strong sense of audience; the writer seems to be aware of the reader and of how to communicate the message most effectively. The reader may discern the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction.</li> <li>• a sense that the topic has come to life; when appropriate, the writing may show originality, liveliness, honesty, conviction, excitement, humor, or suspense.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>A voice is present. The writer demonstrates commitment to the topic, and there may be a sense of “writing to be read.” In places, the writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a questionable or inconsistent level of closeness to or distance from the audience.</li> <li>• a sense of audience; the writer seems to be aware of the reader but has not consistently employed an appropriate voice. The reader may glimpse the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction in places.</li> <li>• liveliness, sincerity, or humor when appropriate; however, at times the writing may be either inappropriately casual or personal, or inappropriately formal and stiff.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>The writer’s commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. A sense of the writer may emerge at times; however, the voice is either inappropriately personal or inappropriately impersonal. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a limited sense of audience; the writer’s awareness of the reader is unclear.</li> <li>• an occasional sense of the writer behind the words; however, the voice may shift or disappear a line or two later and the writing become somewhat mechanical.</li> <li>• a limited ability to shift to a more objective voice when necessary.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>The writing provides little sense of involvement or commitment. There is no evidence that the writer has chosen a suitable voice. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• little engagement of the writer; the writing tends to be largely flat, lifeless, stiff, or mechanical.</li> <li>• a voice that is likely to be overly informal and personal.</li> <li>• a lack of audience awareness; there is little sense of “writing to be read.”</li> <li>• little or no hint of the writer behind the words. There is rarely a sense of interaction between reader and writer.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>The writing seems to lack a sense of involvement or commitment. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no engagement of the writer; the writing is flat and lifeless.</li> <li>• a lack of audience awareness; there is no sense of “writing to be read.”</li> <li>• no hint of the writer behind the words. There is no sense of interaction between writer and reader; the writing does not involve or engage the reader.</li> </ul>

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**Writing****FINAL COPY**

I think that that the discount movie theater should stay open because all the people who can't pay full price at the movie theaters can pay less to watch movies at the movie theaters. Also they will be able to travel a shorter distance to get to the discount movie theater. So that's why I think the discount movie theater should stay open.

**Score point 1** – Writing lacks a sense of involvement; it is flat and lifeless. There is no sense of “writing to be read.” The paper does not engage the reader.

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**Writing****FINAL COPY**

They should keep the theater open and my first reason is would if an adult wanted to take her child or children to the theater to watch a movie and it is the only one that is the closest to them. My second reason is would if it was a child's birthday and they wanted to celebrate it at the theater. My third reason is that everybody has a good time they try to make some space to do something with their family. Like going to the theater. My next reason is because the students and their friends go to the theater and when they come out they say that they had a good time and the next day when they go to school they tell their other friends that they went to the movies and that they had a good time. Every time they have a good time they are going to want to go again and again. So who ever goes to the theater they either will or might have a good time. So don't close the theater down.

**Score point 2** – The writing provides little sense of involvement. It tends to be lifeless and mechanical. There is little hint of the writer behind the words. There is no evidence of a suitable voice. The reasons do not engage the reader or give the reader a sense of commitment by the writer.

**Writing****FINAL COPY**

In this essay I will tell you not to close down the theater in Chinle Az. I will try to change your decision about closing the theater. Here's are some reasons I am giving you.

We all need to see a new movie some day. We all need to see a new movie without it. We won't be able to see up coming movies.

Second of all the theater gives half the money it makes and donates it to the schools of Chinle. If it wasn't for the money from the theater we wouldn't have as much supplies and sport equipment as we have today.

My last persuasive Detail is if you shut down the theater in Chinle the fifty workers working at the theater will have a hard time looking for a job in Chinle. So I hope I changed your decision about shutting down the theater in Chinle.

**Score point 3** – Commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. There is a limited sense of audience; the writer's awareness of the reader is unclear.


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**Writing****FINAL COPY**

Going to the movies has always been fun for friends and families. Now the only discount theater in our area is closing. Just think what could happen! There would be no entertainment for children anymore which leads to vandalism. The parents can't and don't want to drive their children to see a movie, and with high gas prices, who could afford it? Plus, everyone likes cheap movie theaters, so, there would be a lot of business.

First, if children had nothing to do on the weekends, and their friends were too tired of hanging out around the house, children could start vandalism. That could lead to gangs and possibly drugs. I don't think anyone would like their neighborhood or even owned property, vandalized. If you closed the discount theater children could be harmed.

Second, there are other movie theaters, but not one close to this area. Sure, you could drive to the movie theaters far away, but the gas prices are so high. Parents don't like to drive their children around

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**Writing****FINAL COPY**

because they have things to do themselves. They have work, laundry to do, cleaning the house, and cooking dinner. So, you could go to a different theater, but the question is, "who's going to drive me?"

Thirdly, everyone likes cheap movies. Children don't get much allowance and on that little budget, their isn't much you could buy. Plus, parents don't want to spend sixty to seventy dollars bringing the whole family to a movie. If you had cheap movies and concessions you'd definitely get more business.

Consequently, if you closed the discount theater there could be vandalism from child, no good business for other theaters, (plus, bored children) and more business for your theater. So, on behalf of the community and anyone else who likes a discount theater, I pledge you keep the discount theater in our area.

**Score point 4** – The writer demonstrates commitment to the topic. In places, the writing is expressive and engaging. "That could lead to gangs and possibly drugs." The reader may glimpse the writer behind the words and feel a sense of interaction in places. "I don't think anyone would like their neighborhood or even owned property, vandalized."

**Writing****FINAL COPY**

The lights dim, the crunching noises fill the theatre, the movie begins. Movies have inner meanings; they tell comedies, dramas, and true stories. They entertain teenagers, but they don't come cheap. Closing the discount movie theatre is a big mistake, and I will fight with all my will to keep it open.

Seeing movies keeps many teenagers entertained. But movies don't just entertain us, they have hidden values too. Movies captivate our minds by giving us knowledge and widening our vocabulary. But for some of us, it allows us to get away from life and become lost in a better place. Although, there is no way to see a movie if you're broke.

Growing up, nobody has lots of money. Maybe a few bucks from small jobs you pick up from your neighbors; but otherwise you're broke. When you're a movie-goer it gets tuff, and this is when it's nice to have a discount theatre nearby.

The discount theatre is where this all ties together. Loving movies, and being able to see them at a cost that fits my wallet; is quite a breakthrough for teenagers. If the discount theatre closes, there will be devastation for all the regulars. By keeping the discount theatre open the minds of people ages four through one-hundred and four

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**Writing****FINAL COPY**

would change. Their vocabulary would broaden, their imagination would stretch farther, and their knowledge would be greater. Now, why would any one even think about closing it?

**Score point 5** – The writer seems committed to the topic, and there is a sense of “writing to be read.” “Closing the discount movie theater is a big mistake, and I will fight with all my will to keep it open” is an example of commitment. “Loving movies, and being able to see them at a cost that fits my wallet...” is an example of the writer behind the words. Expressive, engaging, and sincere writing shows a strong sense of audience.



**Writing****FINAL COPY**

People of all ages can find a source of entertainment at a reasonable fee at our discount theater. They may no longer have the option to do so because the only discount theater that remains in their area is being closed. If the theater shut down, the memories these people could have made or shared may never be known. If a grandfather was trying to show his grandson how good things used to be back in the day, he wouldn't take him to a fancy theater, he would take him to a place where he spent his free time playing or laughing at his favorite discount theater. Also, teenagers would be able to go out with friends without punching a hole through their wallets. Because this theater is the only discount theater that remains in our area, it should remain open.

The discount theater may be old and a little rough, but it holds remarkable memories no one could ever forget. This could be the place where a young child took his first steps, or a place where teenagers shared their first kiss. Just picture a young boy with his hair roughly combed back sitting against the wall of the theater. His shoes have been kicked off to the side while he bounces a ball to a red brick wall and releases his anger. If the theater was closed, it would shut the door on many things

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like that from happening again.

If a young boy or girl didn't have a lot of money and a new movie was out, they could go to the discount theater and relax with a 69¢ coke being grasped lightly in one hand and a warm hot dog in the other. Without the discount theater many people would be limited to where they could go. If they finally decide to pay the money and go to the expensive theater, it wouldn't be relaxing. Since there is one instead of two theaters, it would be packed with people. Also, the new lights are glaring so hard, it tenses up your body and you don't want to turn back. With the mixture from the heat from the light and the extra body heat from the people, the theater might not be a comfortable temperature. Even if someone was hungry or thirsty, they already had spent all of their money on the ticket and wouldn't have enough money. Since the new theater was getting more customers, it would probably raise the prices.

Many teens today save their money and tend to be cheap. A discount theater could be a place for them to enjoy a movie with a few friends and a lot of food. They don't want to waste all of their money on a short movie. If the discount theater was closed where would they go?

People of every generation could enjoy a cheap movie in a decent area. If it was closed down, they would no longer have that opportunity. Because this theater is the only discount theater that remains in our area, it should remain open.

**Score point 6** –The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose, and audience. The writer seems deeply committed to the topic and there is an exceptional sense of “writing to be read.” The topic has come to life in paragraph one when the writer refers to shared memories and in paragraph two with the boy bouncing the ball against the wall of the closed theater.